

HEROES AND VILLAINS ENTERTAINMENT



# BUSHIDO

THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR



ROB LEVIN | JESSADA SUTTHI



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Written By:  
Rob Levin

Art By:  
Studio HIVE  
Art Director: Skan Srisuwan  
Artist: Jessada Sutthi

Lettered By:  
Troy Peteri

Edited By:  
Bryan Rountree  
& Matt Hawkins

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**Heroes and Villains Entertainment™:**  
Markus Goerg, Dick Hillenbrand,  
Mikhail Nayfeld, & Robert Watts  
For rights inquiries contact  
Heroes and Villains Entertainment: 323-850-2990  
info@heroesandvillains.com



**Top Cow Productions, Inc.:**  
Marc Silvestri - CEO  
Matt Hawkins - President & COO  
Bryan Rountree - Managing Editor  
Elena Salcedo - Operations Manager  
Betsy Gonia - Production Assistant



*Pacific Ocean, 1663*

I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
MUCH OF MY  
OLD LIFE...

JUST HOW  
IT ENDED.

OUR SHIP WAS ATTACKED  
BY PIRATES. THEY  
KILLED EVERYONE.

**B.O.O.A.C.H.**

**BLOOD**

**T.O.W.**

RUN,  
BOY!

DON'T  
WORRY...

INCLUDING MY  
PARENTS AS I  
STOOD BY,  
PARALYZED  
BY FEAR.

**BLOOD**

...WE'LL TAKE  
GREAT CARE OF  
THE KID.

I REMEMBER  
WATER...



...AND  
SAND.

MY LIFE WAS BROKEN.  
MUCH LIKE THE SHIP  
THAT CARRIED ME--  
SOMEHOW--  
TO MY NEW ONE.

⟨WHAT IS  
THAT?⟩

⟨A  
SURVIVOR.⟩

⟨YOU  
WERE  
VERY  
LUCKY.⟩

I--I DO NOT  
UNDERSTAND.

YOU  
WILL.

MY FATHER,  
ISAMU, CALLED  
ME KICHIRO. IT  
MEANS "LUCKY  
ONE."

I WOULD COME  
TO FIND OUT  
IT WAS A  
MISNOMER.





ISAMU RAISED ME AS HIS OWN, TRAINING ME ALONGSIDE HIS ACTUAL SON IN *BUSHIDO*, THE WAY OF THE SAMURAI.

MY BROTHER OROCHI WAS ALWAYS THE MORE GIFTED PUPIL, BUT FATHER NEVER WANTED MY BIRTH TO HOLD ME BACK AND GAVE ME ADDITIONAL PRIVATE INSTRUCTION.

HE WANTED ONLY THAT I FOLLOW OROCHI'S PATH AND BECOME SAMURAI, BUT I KNEW THE EXTRA ATTENTION MADE MY BROTHER RESENT ME.

MY SONS,  
YOU HAVE EACH  
MADE ME PROUD  
TO BE YOUR  
TEACHER...

...AND  
*HONORED*  
TO BE YOUR  
FATHER.



Imperial palace

Edo, Japan



IT HAD BEEN MY DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE *GENPUKU* CEREMONY SINCE MY FATHER INTRODUCED ME TO HIS WORLD.



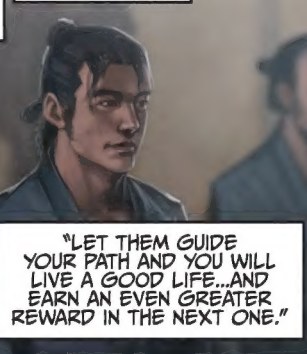
I WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO CALL MYSELF SAMURAI.

BUT MY DREAMS AND THE DREAMS OF MY FATHER MEANT NOTHING IN THE FACE OF TRADITION. *GAUIN* COULD NEVER BECOME SAMURAI.




"LOYALTY. HONOR. RESPECT. HONESTY. BENEVOLENCE. RECTITUDE. COURAGE.

"THESE TENETS ARE THE WAY.



"LET THEM GUIDE YOUR PATH AND YOU WILL LIVE A GOOD LIFE...AND EARN AN EVEN GREATER REWARD IN THE NEXT ONE."



THIS MORNING, YOU AWOKE AS BOYS. TONIGHT, YOU WILL SLEEP AS MORE THAN MEN. YOU ARE SAMURAI.



"YOUR *KATANA* IS MORE THAN A WEAPON. MORE THAN A SYMBOL.



"AS SAMURAI, IT IS YOUR SOUL."





BEFORE WE END THE GENPUKU I HAVE ONE ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

OROCHI, PLEASE APPROACH.



OROCHI, SON OF ISAMU, I HAVE WATCHED YOU FOR MANY YEARS. YOUR SKILL IS UNPARALLELED, YOUR MIND STRONG, AND YOUR HEART PURE.

I WILL NOT BE SHOGUN FOREVER. I CAN ONLY HOPE AN HONORABLE DEATH AWAITS ME BEFORE I BEGIN MY NEXT LIFE -- BUT NO TIME SOON.

I WAS NOT GIFTED WITH A SON. THE KAM SAW FIT ONLY TO BLESS ME WITH MY DAUGHTER, MITSUKO.



OROCHI, HONOR ME BY MARRYING MY DAUGHTER AND ONE DAY SUCCEEDING ME AS SHOGUN OF NIPPON.



"IT WOULD BE MY GREATEST HONOR, SHOGUN."



I WAS PROUD OF MY BROTHER, BUT I WASN'T HAPPY.

HE HAD EVERYTHING I EVER WANTED.



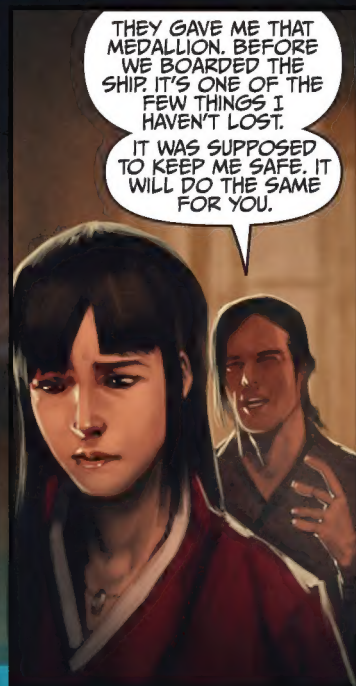
YOU MAY NOT BE SAMURAI, BUT YOU ARE A WARRIOR, KICHIRO.

A WARRIOR MUST ONLY TAKE CARE THAT HIS SPIRIT IS NEVER BROKEN.

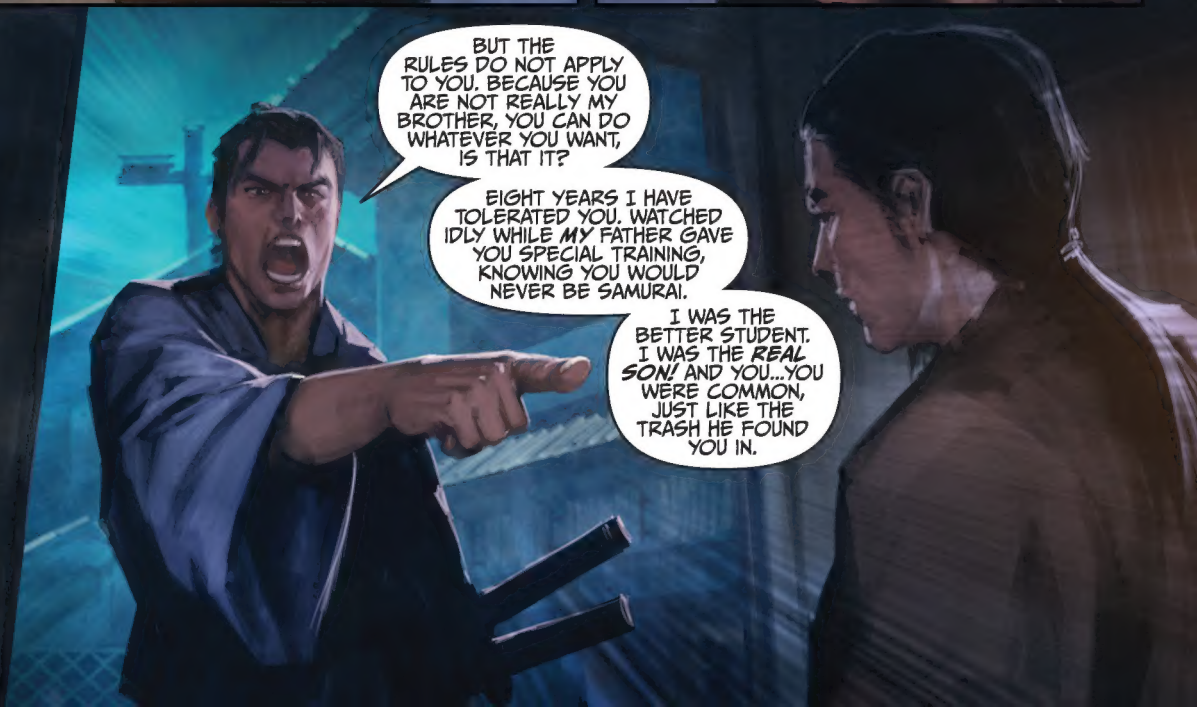




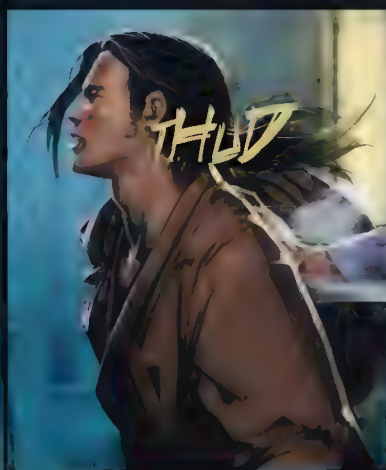














"NEXT SHIP TO  
WHERE?"

"WHEREVER. I  
JUST NEED TO  
GET THERE."

YOU LOOK  
DUTCH. ARE YOU  
DUTCH?

NO.

NO MATTER.  
NEXT SHIP  
LEAVES AT DAWN.  
COME. NO SAKE  
FOR THE DUTCH.  
WE'LL SHARE  
SOME BEERS.

WHY?

WHY  
WHAT?

YOUR  
FACE. WHY  
DOES IT  
LOOK LIKE  
THAT?

YOU DON'T SEEM TO  
UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WORKS.  
BEER SHOULD MAKE TALKING  
EASIER.

OBSERVE.

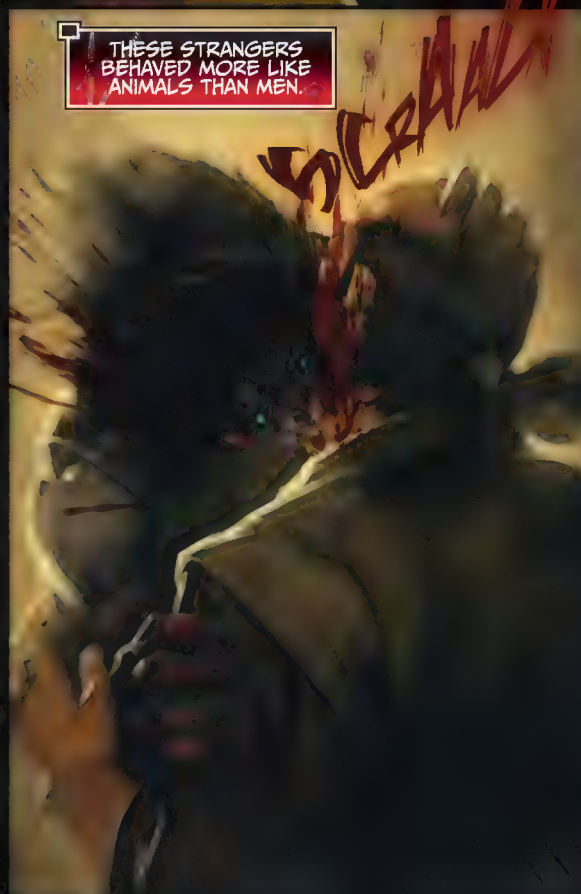








...I DON'T  
THINK EITHER  
WILL SATE  
US.



THESE STRANGERS  
BEHAVED MORE LIKE  
ANIMALS THAN MEN.



THEIR  
KAMI IS...  
WRONG.









YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IT TO LOOK AT THEM, BUT I LIKE JAPANESE. TASTY.

GET USED TO IT.

IF RAVEN SUCCEEDS THE SHOGUN WILL BE DEAD BY DAWN AND YOU'LL HAVE THE WHOLE ISLAND TO FEAST ON.

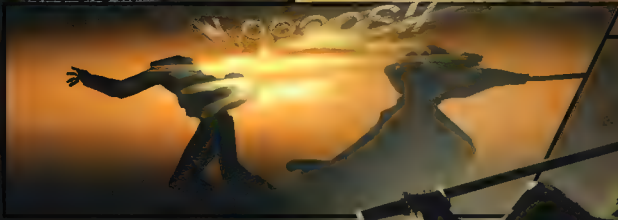
YOU DRESS LIKE THEM. YOU ACT LIKE THEM. YOU EVEN FIGHT LIKE THEM. BUT YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM.

DO YOU WANT TO *DIE* THE SAME WAY THEY DID?



A GOOD DEATH BRINGS NO DISHONOR.

AAAAHHH!



THE MONSTERS FROM MY OLDEST MEMORY HAD RETURNED, SEEKING TO DESTROY WHAT LITTLE REMAINED OF MY NEW LIFE.

SAMURAI OR NOT, I WOULD SPEND EVERY REMAINING BREATH DEFENDING MY HOME.



THERE WAS LITTLE TIME TO CONTEMPLATE THE LIVES I HAD JUST TAKEN. THE SHOGUN'S SAFETY WAS ALL THAT MATTERED.



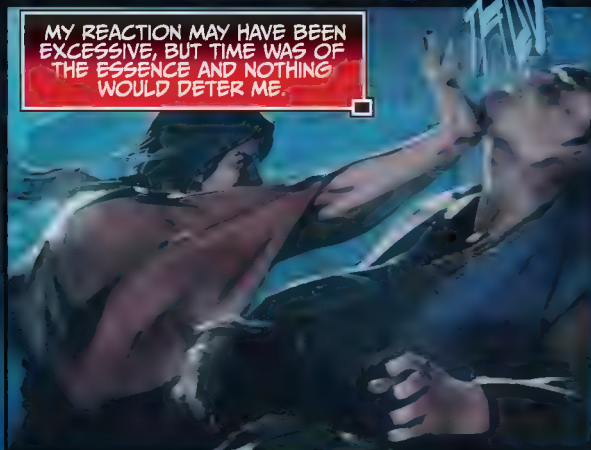
I NEED YOUR HORSE. PLEASE.

HEHE. LOOK AT THIS GAIJIN. HE THINKS HE'S SAMURAI.



HAHAHAHA.

MY REACTION MAY HAVE BEEN EXCESSIVE, BUT TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE AND NOTHING WOULD DETER ME.



I AM NOT A SAMURAI.

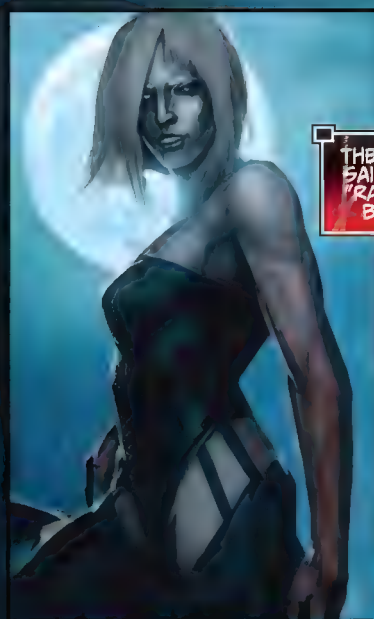


MY MIND WAS UNCLEAR-- CAUGHT BETWEEN A FADING PAST AND A DANGEROUS FUTURE.

BUT I HAD NO IDEA THEN JUST HOW BAD THINGS WOULD BECOME.







THE MONSTERS  
SAID THE NAME  
"RAVEN" IN THE  
BEER HALL.



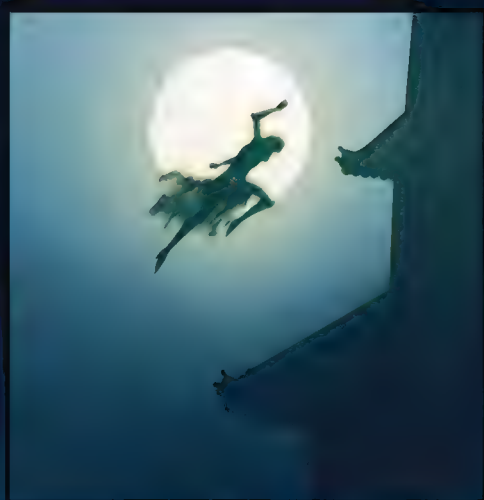
THEY ALSO SAID THE  
SHOGUN WOULD BE  
DEAD BY DAWN.



I KNEW THERE WAS  
LITTLE TIME, BUT I  
WASN'T WILLING TO LET  
EDO FALL TO THEM.











...PERHAPS I COULD HAVE HELPED MY FATHER.



THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU SAMURAI...



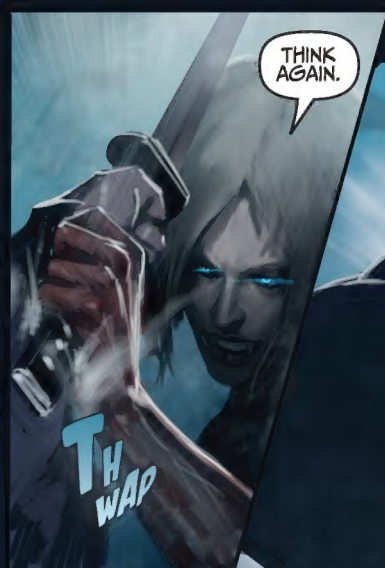
FIGHTERS UNTIL THE BITTER END.



THE ANGER IN YOUR HEART WILL NOT BRING VICTORY.











KICHIRO...?

WHAT  
HAVE YOU  
DONE?

THERE WAS NOTHING I  
COULD SAY THAT OROCHI  
WOULD LISTEN TO.



THERE WAS NOTHING I  
COULD DO THAT WOULD  
BRING OUR FATHER BACK.

YOU HAVE  
MURDERED  
MY FATHER.

COMMIT  
SEPPUKU  
AND SPARE  
YOURSELF ANY  
FURTHER  
SHAME.

I...

TO BE CONTINUED!



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# DARKNESS

